



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF  
LAVINIA L. DOCK

---

## OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

THE first meeting of the newly constituted National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland was held in London on May 1st, its report being a little too late for our June issue.

It is composed of delegates from the various Hospital Nurses' Leagues, now ten in all, the Matron's Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Irish Nurses' Association, the Society for State Registration, the Registered Nurses' Society, and the Public School Nurses' League.

Officers elected were: President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; treasurer, Miss Christina Forrest, of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League; secretary, Miss Beatrice Cutler, assistant matron at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; first, second, and third vice-presidents, Miss G. A. Rogers, lady superintendent of the Leicester Infirmary, Miss M. Huxley, ex-president of the Irish Nurses' Association, and Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C. lady superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. The directors are Miss Mollett, matron of the Royal South Hants Hospital, Miss Breay, secretary of the Matrons' Council, Miss Burr, of St. John's House League, Mrs. Kildare Treacy, lady superintendent of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, Miss Cowper, superintendent of the Scottish Branch, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and Miss Pearse, superintendent of the London County Council School Nurses. Miss Isla Stewart and Miss L. Ramsden as presidents of the Matrons' Council and Irish Nurses' Association are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

Among other business the Council agreed to apply for affiliation with the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and to adopt the *British Journal of Nursing* as its official organ.

It considered the different items of business to be brought before the International, and, on motion of Mrs. Fenwick, voted to invite the International Council to meet in London in the summer of 1909.

## THE TRIUMPH OF JUSTICE

THE event of the year in registration matters is the defeat of Sydney Holland and Mr. Burdett in the House of Lords, where they had meanly taken their "Official Directory of Nurses' Bill" in the hope of preventing state registration and representation of nurses on a central council. Not only was their defeat decisive, but, what is most gratifying, their motives were thoroughly exposed. Lord Ampthill, who spoke with great force and clearness, said:

"The advocacy of this bill, which is in opposition to state registration, comes from a small group of individuals—I might almost say from one single individual—and their reasons for objecting to the principle of state registration have never been made clear, chiefly, I think, because they have been afraid to put them to the test of public discussion. . . . This bill is, in effect, a blocking bill, an anti-registration bill. . . . The promoters of this bill have deliberately refrained from making any attempt to ascertain the opinion of any organized bodies representative of the medical and nursing professions. And why? . . . It is because they knew full well that they would not meet with any encouragement or support. . . . The object of this bill is simply to put an obstacle in the true path of legislation."

The motion to read the bill for the second time was defeated by fifty-three votes to twenty, after a long discussion in which Lord Ashbourne and Lord Monkswell also spoke admirably in defense of justice. Our space does not allow more detail, but every nurse should read the abstract of the debate in the *British Journal of Nursing* for May 16, and every nurses' library should obtain Parliamentary debates of Wednesday, May 6, No. 2, vol. 188. We are indebted to Mrs. Fenwick and Miss Brey for a copy. It contains the full debate, and may be had from Wyman and Sons, Fetter Lane, London, price 1s. 5d. We are placing ours in the Johns Hopkins Nurses' Library.

---

THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL MEETING

THE plans for next summer's meeting of the International Council are now settled, and we are sure that the kind invitation of the British nurses and the decision of the councillors to meet in London will give general satisfaction. The time will be midsummer, when the greatest number of vacations occur among nurses, and London is delightful in midsummer. There should be a great banner day for registration, legal status, and improved educational methods. We suggest also, remembering Paris, that it would be delightful to have one reunion to which everybody should go in uniform—nurses of different countries would take the greatest interest in seeing one another in working dress. There was some disappointment in Paris because the visitors did not all bring

uniforms. We suggest, too, as this is a business meeting, that there be a collection of league and alumnae reports and journals, printed material, and records of work.

The *Pacific Coast Journal* suggests meeting in 1912 in Japan, where there will be a World's Fair. It would be a dream, but, we fear, too costly.

---

#### ITEMS

THE *British Journal of Nursing* was the first, and the only one to call the attention of British nurses to the danger of the bill introduced into the House of Lords. The response of organized nurses was immediate and remarkable. Again a proof of the vital importance of nursing journals controlled by nurses.

MISS ISLA STEWART has had a well-earned long vacation in Italy, and is now at work again at St. Bartholomew's. Her twenty-first anniversary as matron of the hospital was marked by a complimentary dinner given her by her co-workers, at which, we may be sure, geniality reigned supreme and much interesting reminiscence was heard.

MRS. KILDARE TREACY has completed her term of office as president of the Irish Nurses' Association and is succeeded by Miss Ramsden, matron of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. Mrs. Treacy was an able executive and the Irish nurses have a vigorous and public-spirited association. From the first it has taken an active share in all public questions.

ECHOES of the Italian Women's Congress are heard in many directions: the *Woman's Journal* (Boston) gives reports in its numbers of May 16 and 23. Miss Amy Turton has sent a full abstract of Signora Sciamanna's brilliant and eloquent speech on nursing to the *British Journal* of May 16, and an Italian report of it is contained in *Il Giornale d' Italia* of April 30, sent to us by the kindness of Miss Baxter.

THE trained nurses of Great Britain took part in the monster demonstrations of women for equal suffrage on June 13 and 21. Led by Mrs. Fenwick and dressed in uniform they marched under the Florence Nightingale banner, decorated with a light-house and the word "Crimea." Miss Nightingale has been a lifelong believer in "Votes for Women." An English nurse has also been one of those brave prisoners whom all the world will laud some day.

THE death of Miss Louisa Stevenson, LL.D., of Edinburgh, on the 13th of May, removes one who during a long and useful life was conspicuous for her share in social and educational reforms. She was espe-

cially endeared to nurses by her strong support of their progressive movements. Those who attended the Buffalo Congress will all remember her gracious personality, and be glad to have known her. Miss Stevenson labored indefatigably in the cause of education and especially to advance medical education for women and the higher education of nurses.

THE German Nurses' Association, which from the beginning has had a share, together with a teachers' society, in a charming vacation-house near Hannover, has now had a gratifying offer to occupy entirely, during the months of May and September, an idyllic vacation-house managed by a society for self-supporting women of Berlin. Sister Agnes Karll looks forward to a vacation-house of their own some day, but with her great social wisdom wants it to be open to all working women as she thinks knowledge of other workers' lives is most wholesome for nurses.

FROM the "fair land of France" come many interesting items. A cordial letter from Mlle. Duconseil, the head of the new school at the Salpêtrière, speaks of encouraging progress in her pioneer work. She is ardent and hopeful. From *La Garde*.—*Malade Hospitalière* for May we learn that examinations for the new posts in the military hospital Val-de-Grâce were held in Bordeaux in April and that three nurses, two from the Protestant Hospital and one from the Tondou passed them with distinction and are eligible for appointment. Also the graduates of these two schools continue their advance into hospitals in the provinces, and the list of public men who go to inspect the Nightingale system in Bordeaux grows steadily. Dr. Hamilton has recently started a visiting nurse service, of which we will hear more soon.

In Paris, a nurse from Finland has been appointed professor of massage for the pupils at the Salpêtrière school.

THE work and reputation of the public school nurse extends steadily. The Liverpool District Nursing Association has been sending four nurses regularly to the primary schools, and several of the district nurses visited schools in addition to their other work. It is hoped that the recent Act of Parliament will tend to stimulate school nursing and extend it. The last report of the Jubilee Institute speaks of the demand for nurses for the schools, and the probability that local authorities will make grants for paying such services. The London County Council School nurses have formed a league, whose president is Miss Pearse, the superintendent. *Nosokomos*, the Holland journal, loses no opportunity of saying a word for school nursing, and after reporting a meeting of the school board in Amsterdam at which the question of truancy among children who were

attending the dispensaries was brought up, it remarks that "only the appointment of school nurses will reduce this truancy to a minimum."

INSPIRING progress is being made in the "votes for women" movement. The women of Denmark have held public rejoicings over their grant of municipal suffrage, and let us not forget that nurses will be among these self-governing women. The Committee of the Spanish Chamber has given women who are heads of families a vote in the election of village mayors and councillors. In the Filipino Parliament a bill has been introduced in the Assembly giving women full suffrage. We cannot, of course, tell whether it will pass the Upper House. The English movement is simply dazzling in its brilliant progress. The women have defeated thirteen government candidates in bye-elections, and their victory is in sight. We would give much to have walked in the great parade in London on June 13th, under the Florence Nightingale banner at the head of the Nurses' Contingent in their uniforms. Miss Nightingale has always been a suffragist, and her banner was to bear the single word "Crimea" under a light-house with streaming rays. What is going to happen is that our old country will find itself coming along some day at the tail end of the procession.

BELGIUM has followed Germany with state registration for nurses. A royal edict has been issued, April 4, following some resolutions which were passed last September by the medical societies,—giving the conditions upon which certificates will be awarded by the state. The requirements are sufficiently elementary, and show how low the average standard must be: candidates must be at least eighteen years old; must present a certificate of moral character given by the local government in their native place, and one showing that they have had either: (1) a one-year course of theoretical and practical teaching given by a physician and comprising the subjects required for state examination (*viz.*, anatomy and physiology, asepsis and antisepsis, elementary hygiene, practical nursing, surgical detail, medical orders and reporting, emergencies), or, (2) a two-year course in a public or private hospital.

In congratulating Belgium and in giving credit to the enlightened physicians who have secured this small step forward, we must not be understood as regarding this standard as a satisfactory minimum. Apparently the year's teaching by a physician may be without hospital work and the two years' hospital work may be without teaching and without a varied service. Neither can be regarded as satisfactory. Also we must, of course, object seriously to boards of control and examination from which nurses are excluded. But as a beginning we hail Belgium's act, and hope that in time German and Belgian nurses will have places on their own examining boards.